

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman  
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman  
Doug Mood, Commissioner  
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner  
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

APPEARANCE  
David Burchett

(82) In the matter of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. - Docket No. D2005.1.9: On January 20, 2005, MDU filed a proposed revision to MDU therm zone boundaries to add new zone 41 (affecting one farm-tap customer) and to amend zone 24 and zone 211 to reflect new receipt points (affecting about 60 customers). MDU states that the change in heat value to the customers will be minimal.

Commissioner Molnar moved to approve zone 41 and to amend zone 24 and 211. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE  
Scott Fabel

(83) In the matter of Qwest Communications - Docket N2005.2.18: On February 14, 2005, Qwest filed tariff Transmittal 05-01 Increase the default rate of payphone compensation. The purpose of this filing is to increase the default rate of payphone compensation in the Exchange and Network Service Tariff, Section 6.2.1 and Section 7.1.3, and the Exchange and Network Service Price List, Section 7.1.3, to \$0.55 for "dial around" calls to be consistent with the FCC's Report and Order on WC Docket No. 03-255 and FCC CC Docket No. 91-35.

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve tariff Transmittal 05-01 increasing the default rate of payphone compensation. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(84) In the matter of Ronan Telephone Company - Docket N2005.2.19: On February 15, 2005, Ronan Telephone (RTC) filed changes to its Lifeline Tariffs. On April 29, 2004, the FCC released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 04-87, in the matter of Lifeline and Link-up. The proposed changes reflect the changes required by the FCC order. They have also been updated to reflect that the RTC service area is encompassed entirely on the Flathead Indian Reservation, in accordance with the FCC Order.

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the proposed changes in Ronan's Lifeline Tariffs.

Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE  
Wayne Budt, Administrator  
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(85) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes:

Commissioner Raney moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of February 22, 2005. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE  
Leroy Beeby

(86) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Annual Reports:

Commissioner Schneider moved to issue a letter to all utilities required to make reports reminding them of the legal requirements. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE  
Al Brogan, Marla Larson

(87) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of FERC RM04-7 - Rulemaking regarding market-based rate authority and screens to determine presence or absence of market power:

Commissioner Schneider moved to authorize staff to draft comments on the rule making reflecting today's discussion and consider including as an exhibit the filings that the PSC has submitted. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE  
Al Brogan

(88) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Northwestern Energy's Application for Advanced Approval of Certain Proposed Electricity Power Supply Purchase Agreements - Docket D2005.2.14:

Commissioner Raney moved to sustain NWE's objection for intervention by PP&L and Exergy. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed 3 to 2. Commissioner Schneider and Commissioner Molnar voted no.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

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GREG JERGSON, Chairman

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BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

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DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

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ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

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THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Thursday, March 3, 2005, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman  
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman  
Doug Mood, Commissioner  
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner  
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

APPEARANCE  
Mike Lee, Utility  
Martin Jacobson, Legal

(89) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of N2004.7.121 and D2003.1.14 - Western Wireless - ETC Certification;

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve ETC certification of Western Wireless to the FCC and USAC in the designated services areas in Docket D2003.1.14. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(90) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2003.2.23 – 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative – ETC Shelby;

Commissioner Schneider moved to adopt the order on reconsideration as drafted as it relates to D2003.2.23. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

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GREG JERGSON, Chairman

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BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

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DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

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ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

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THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Friday, March 4, 2005, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman  
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman  
Doug Mood, Commissioner  
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner  
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

#### APPEARANCE

Al Brogan, Kate Whitney, Will Rosquist, Leroy Beeby

(91) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2005.2.14 – NorthWestern Energy – Application for Advanced Approval of Certain Proposed Electricity Power Purchase Agreements;

Commissioner Raney moved to reconsider the action taken on March 1, 2005, sustaining NorthWestern Energy's objections to PP&L Montana and Exergy's petitions for intervention. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schneider moved to overrule the objections of NWE to the intervention of PPL Montana and Exergy in this docket. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which was replaced with a substitute motion.

Commissioner Schneider in a substitute motion moved to overrule NorthWestern Energy's objection to intervention subject to the following:

1. No delay in the hearing schedule to commence on March 17, 2005, ending no later than March 19, 2005.
2. Exergy and PPL Montana and their representatives shall not have access to confidential information and;
3. The proceeding is limited to issues directly related to the wind contract.

To the extent necessary, the Commission waives any of its procedural rules pursuant to ARM 38.2.305. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schneider moved to deny the motion to reconsider the procedural schedule by Exergy. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Raney moved to sustain Exergy and PPL Montana's objections to NWE to data requests. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jergeson moved to overrule the objection of NWE to PPL Montana and Exergy's data requests and direct NorthWest Energy to respond to those data requests within the scope of

the restrictions placed on the intervenors. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

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GREG JERGESON, Chairman

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BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

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DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

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ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

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THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)